

cording to the New Industrial Policy, both public and private sector are permitted in the Telecom Industry.

(b) No such term has been received by this Ministry from International Monetary Fund;

(c) Draft 8th Plan proposal envisage addition of around 1.80 lakh New Telephone lines in West Bengal during the 8th Plan period.

(d) As on 31.3.91, 369 electronic exchanges were functioning in East Zone (comprising of Orissa Circle, West Bengal Circle/North East circle, Bihar circle and Calcutta Metros district) including 63 electronic exchanges in West Bengal. As regards the number of exchanges proposed for the 8th plan, these have not been firmed up pending finalisation of 8th Five Year Plan.

Agreement Between Orissa Government and Electric Company, USA for Setting Thermal Plant

4105. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANE-GRAHI:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of Orissa and the Southern Electric Company, USA for Setting up 1500 MW Thermal Plant in IB Valley near Talchar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An MOU between the U.S. based Company namely M/s Southern Electric International Inc., USA and the Govt. of Orissa has since been signed on 13.12. 1991 by which the Govt. of Orissa proposes to arrange for the private construction, ownership and operation of the 2x210 MW electric power generation stations currently under construction at the IB Valley site in Orissa, the 2x210 MW electric power generation stations approved for construction at the IB Valley site, and the 3 x 500 MW electric power generation stations proposed to be built at the IB Valley site.

Metering of Local Calls

4106. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to meter local calls in areas covered by MTNL;

(b) whether there has been any opposition to the proposed scheme from urban subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have decided to postpone the implementation of the said scheme;

(e) the additional revenue expected by adopting this measure; and

(f) the degree of decongestion of exchanges at busy hours?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The proposal to introduce time metering of local calls is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal has evoked mixed reactions from various telephone users.

(d) Decision has not yet been taken. Question of postponement does not arise.

(e) No additional revenue is anticipated.

(f) The degree of de-congestion will depend on the duration at which the calls are timed. This has not yet been decided.

Handing over properties of ITDC to Multinationals

4107. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

●(a) whether the Government have decided to hand over ITDC hotels to multinationals;

(b) if so whether the prominent hoteliers in the country have protested against the decision of the Government to handover some of the properties of ITDC to multinationals; and

(c) if so, details thereof; and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRIMADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir, However, Government have formulated a scheme whereby small groups of ITDC hotels would be formed for the purpose of developing them as joint ventures with leading foreign hotel chains.

(b) The Federation of Hotel and Restau-

rant Associations of India have represented that the Indian hotel chains may also be permitted to participate in this scheme.

(c) as a much wider of objectives was being served by the scheme as formulated, it was not found feasible to agree to other suggestions.

[Translation]

Issue of bonds for Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra

4108. SHRI TEJSINGH RAO BHONSLE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought the approval of the Union Government to issue bonds to raise the funds for irrigation projects of the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the approval is likely to be given; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). As the total investable resources for the market borrowing programme, both for the Central and State Governments, is limited there is not scope for allowing any additional allocation to Maharashtra Government over and above the borrowing programme as already approved.

[English]

Awarding of Contracts by Bokaro Steel Plant

4109. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state: